

JANUARY 6 COMMISSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have a brief statement on the vote on the January 6 Commission.

My colleagues, this was a case of good news and bad news about the Republican Party in the Senate.

The good news: Republicans worked with Democrats on comprehensive legislation to strengthen our commitment to scientific research, which will pass the Senate when the Senate resumes session.

The bad news: The Republican minority just mounted a partisan filibuster against an independent Commission to report on January 6. Both efforts should have moved forward solidly in a bipartisan way, but out of fear or fealty to Donald Trump, the Republican minority just prevented the American people from getting the full truth about January 6. The Republican minority just prevented the Senate from even debating the bill—no opportunity for amendments, no opportunity for debate.

There was an attempt by the Republican minority to shunt this vote into the dark of night, but because of today's Senate time agreement, it was done in broad daylight. The American people will see how each Republican Senator voted.

This should have been simple. The Commission was bipartisan, independent, straight down the middle. House Democrats accepted every change that House leadership requested. Speaker PELOSI and I supported and still do support the changes Senator COLLINS proposed, and we told that to other Senators.

Senate Republicans, for months, publicly supported the idea of a Commission, but now, all of a sudden, the Senate minority and the Senate minority leader waged a partisan filibuster against the bill.

This vote has made it official: Donald Trump's Big Lie has now fully enveloped the Republican Party. Trump's Big Lie is now the defining principle of what was once the party of Lincoln.

House Republicans canned Congresswoman CHENEY for the crime of telling the truth that Joe Biden is President. Republican State legislatures seizing on the Big Lie are conducting the greatest assault on voting rights since the beginning of Jim Crow. Republicans in both Chambers are trying to rewrite history and claim that January 6 was just a peaceful protest that got a little out of hand. And now this—a partisan blockade of a simple, independent, bipartisan Commission.

I have heard all the excuses why Republicans are opposing this bill: It is too early. It goes on too long. It is not needed. Almost all of these excuses are meritless and were invented in the past 2 weeks.

We all know what is going on here. Senate Republicans chose to defend the Big Lie because they believe anything that might upset Donald Trump could hurt them politically.

We all lived through the horrors of January 6. I was no farther than 30 feet from those White Supremacist hooligans. Do my Republican colleagues remember that day? Do my Republican colleagues remember the savage mob calling for the execution of Mike Pence, the makeshift gallows outside the Capitol, men with bulletproof vests and zip ties breaking into the Senate Gallery and rifling through your desks, and police officers crushed between doorways? Shame on the Republican Party for trying to sweep the horrors of that day under the rug because they are afraid of Donald Trump.

Our democracy has long endured because leaders of good faith, even if they disagreed, even at political costs, shared a fidelity to the truth. That is not so today.

I hope this is not the beginning of an effort by Senate Republicans to prevent this Chamber from debating reasonable, commonsense legislation. We will soon see.

After the State work period, I will bring forward legislation that would help provide equal pay for women. Will our Republican colleagues let the Senate debate the bill, or will they engage in another partisan filibuster of urgent legislation? We will soon see.

Madam President, I have a lot of pages here, a lot of business to conduct.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to consider the following nominations: Calendar No. 132 and all nominations on the Secretary's Desk in the Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Michael J. McCord, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), vice David L. Norquist, resigned.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN355 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (5) beginning Ali Abdi, and ending Mary Ellen Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 13, 2021.

PN356 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (622) beginning Abdulrazak Mahamudu Abass, and ending Ashley B. Zung, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 13, 2021.

PN358—1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (3) beginning Jonathan Raphael Cohen, and

ending Alaina Teplitz, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 13, 2021.

PN476 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (209) beginning Alexander S. Allen, and ending Iva Ziza, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 27, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 133; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald S. Moultrie, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Shall the Senate advise and consent to the Moultrie nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

TRAINING IN HIGH-DEMAND ROLES TO IMPROVE VETERAN EMPLOYMENT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2523 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2523) to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to improve the COVID-19 Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance program, to make certain technical corrections to the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.